CLAIMS:

1. A system comprising:

an interface of an application unit, including a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;

a target application implemented as a computer code device configured to control the interface of the application unit;

a monitoring unit configured to monitor data corresponding to selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user, and to generate a log of the monitored data;

a dynamic linked library for interfacing between the target application and the monitoring unit; and

a communicating unit configured to receive the log of the monitored data and to communicate the log of the monitored data.

2. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the interface is a display screen on a computer monitor controlled by the target application.

3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the application unit is an image forming device and the interface is an operation panel of the image forming device.

4. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the application unit is an appliance and the interface is an operation panel of the appliance.

5. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the communicating unit sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application substantially every time.

6. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the communicating unit sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application after substantially every n sessions of the target application, when n is at least two.

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7. A system according to Claim 6, further comprising a setting unit configured to set in, the number of sessions of the target application to be executed by the user prior to the communicating unit communicating the log of the monitored data.

8. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the log of monitored data is in a form of a map with a key and a data value both containing string data.

9. A system according to Claim 8, wherein the data value includes vectors which contain string data.

10. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the communicating unit communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

11. A system comprising:
interface means of an application unit means, the interface means for providing a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;
a target application implemented as a computer code device configured to control the interface of the application unit;
monitoring means for monitoring data corresponding to selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface means by the user, and for generating a log of the monitored data dynamic linked library for interfacing between the target application and the monitoring unit; and
communicating means for receiving the log of the monitored data and for communicating the log of the monitored data.

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the interface means is a display screen on a computer monitor controlled by the target application.

13. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the application unit means is an image forming device and the interface means is an operation panel of the image forming device.

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14. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the application unit means is an appliance and the interface means is an operation panel of the appliance.

15. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the communicating means sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application means substantially every time.

16. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the communicating means sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application means after substantially every n sessions of the target application, wherein n is at least two.

17. A system according to Claim 16, further comprising a setting means for setting n, the number of sessions of the target application means to be executed by the user prior to the communicating means communicating the log of the monitored data.

18. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the log of monitored data is in the form of a map with a key and a data value both containing string data.

19. A system according to Claim 18, wherein the data value includes vectors which contain string data.

20. A system according to Claim 11, wherein the communicating means communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

21. A method of monitoring usage of an interface of an application unit, the interface including a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, the method comprising the steps of:

controlling the interface using a target application implemented as a computer code device;

monitoring data corresponding to selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user by communicating with the target application through a dynamic linked library;

generating a log of the monitored data; and

receiving the monitored data, and communicating the log of the monitored data.

22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the interface is a display screen on a computer monitor controlled by the target application.

23. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the application unit is an image forming device and the interface is an operation panel of the image forming device.

24. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the application unit is an appliance and the interface is an operation panel of the appliance.

25. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the communicating step sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application substantially every time.

26. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the communicating step sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application after substantially every n sessions of the target application, wherein n is at least two.

27. A method according to Claim 26, further comprising a step of setting n, the number of sessions of the target application to be executed by the user prior to the communicating device communicating the log of the monitored data.

28. A system according to Claim 21, wherein the log of monitored data is in a form of a map with a key and a data value both containing string data.

29. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the data value includes vectors which contain string data.

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30. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the communicating step communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

31. A computer program product comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to monitor a user's usage of an interface of an application unit, the interface comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, comprising:

a first computer code device configured to control the interface;

a second computer code device configured to monitor data corresponding to selecting of the plurality of operations of the interface by the user by communicating with the first computer code device through dynamically linked library, and configured to generate a log of the monitored data; and
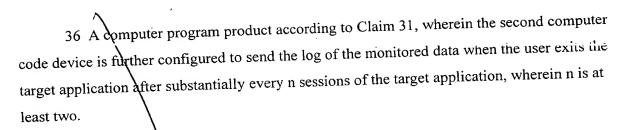
a third computer code device configured to receive the log of the monitored data and to communicate the log of the monitored data.

32. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the interface is a display screen on a computer monitor controlled by the target application.

33. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the application unit is an image forming device and the interface is an operation panel of the image forming device.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 28, wherein the application unit is an appliance and the interface is an operation panel of the appliance.

35. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to send the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application substantially every time.

36 A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to send the log of the monitored data when the user exits the target application after substantially every n sessions of the target application, wherein n is at

5   least two.

37. A computer program product according to Claim 31, further comprising a third computer code device configured to set n, the number of sessions of the target application to be executed by the user prior to the second computer code device communicating the log of

10   the monitored data.

38. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the log of monitored data is in the form of a map with a key and a data value both containing string data.

15   39. A system according to Claim 38, wherein the data value includes vectors which contain string data.

40. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to communicate the log of the monitored data by

20   Internet mail.

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